



**DATE:** November 13, 2013

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Diana Yu, Board Member

**SUBJECT:** BRIEFING – CHAPTER 246-105 WAC IMMUNIZATION OF CHILD CARE AND SCHOOL CHILDREN AGAINST CERTAIN VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

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### **Background and Summary:**

According to statute (RCW 28A.210.080, 28A. 210.100, and 28A.210.140), the Board has the authority to adopt rules on proof of immunizations for school and day care attendance, prescribe the form of written records for school and day care immunizations, and adopt rules that establish requirements for “full immunization.” The rules reflecting the Board’s statutory authority pertaining to child care and school children’s vaccinations are contained in Chapter 246-105 WAC (Immunization of Child Care and School Children against Certain Vaccine-Preventable Diseases).

In 2011, the legislature amended the immunization statute (RCW 28A.210.090) to make sure parents or legal guardians requesting exemptions for medical, personal or religious reasons receive information on the benefits and risks of vaccinating their children. Parents or legal guardians verify they have received this information through a health care practitioner’s signature on a prescribed form. Parents or legal guardians who demonstrate membership in a religious body that precludes provision of medical treatment are not required to have this information provided to them. The immunization rule needs to be updated to reflect these statutory changes.

The immunization rule lists vaccine preventable diseases required for children entering child care or school. The rule references the Advisory Committee of Immunization Practices’ (ACIP) recommended immunization schedule to determine the ages and dose intervals for these vaccine preventable diseases. The ACIP updates the national immunization recommendations frequently to reflect evolving scientific research findings. Most physicians follow the ACIP’s recommendations for ages and dose intervals for vaccines. The rule currently references the 2012 version of the MMWR article describing the ACIP’s recommended schedule. While we have the rule open, we would like to update the reference so it is in synch with current medical practice and the most recent ACIP schedule.

The immunization rule needs to be updated to reflect statutory changes, update the ACIP reference, and clarify language as needed, so a Pre-proposal Statement of Inquiry (WSR 13-18-080) was filed on September 4, 2013. Today, Jeff Wise, from the Department of Health’s Office

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of Immunization and Child Profile will tell you more about these proposed changes, and the timeline and process for updating the rule.

**Recommended Board Action:**

No action needed.

**Staff Contact:** Tara Wolff